SHORANUR-COCHIN RAILWAY—STATIONS NOT SELF-SUPPORTING.

122. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether there are any stations on the Shoranur-Ernakulam line which are not remunerative;

(*b*) what is the average income and expenditure of Vettikatteri Station?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes; only one station, viz., Vettikatteri.

(*b*) The earnings and expenditure of Vettikatteri Station during the year 1938—39 are given below :—

	Rs.
Earnings	2,089.
Expenditure	2,352.

It has not been possible to ascertain the average income and expenditure.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* May I know whether there was any decrease in the earnings from the railway stations in this line since the discontinuance of certain trains?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* We can't say now.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know Sir, whether, if this Vettikatteri station is taken away, any part of this expenditure will have to be incurred or whether we can do away with this whole item of expenditure?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* If that station is taken away, we need not incur any portion of that expenditure.

SHORANUR-COCHIN RAILWAY—PURCHASE OF CLAY PRODUCTS FROM THE STATE FACTORIES.

123. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Railway Company is purchasing tiles and other clay products from the factories in the State for the use of the Shoranur-Cochin Line;

(*b*) if not, will the Government be pleased to instruct the Railway authorities to use Cochin products as far as possible?

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Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Bricks required for the Shoranur-Cochin Railway are being purchased from Messrs. Sivakami Tile works, Pudukad. No separate arrangement is made for the purchase of tiles for the Shoranur-Cochin Railway, as the reqirements of tiles for this Railway are trivial.

(*b*) In the light of the information given in answer to (*a*), Government do not consider it necessary to give any specific instruction to the Railway Company in this matter.

SHORANUR-COCHIN RAILWAY—STATIONS—PROVISION OF COVERED PLATFORMS.

124. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are protections from sun and rain for the passengers who alight at the stations and who wait to catch the train after getting inside the platform in all the Stations in Cochin Line?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* All the stations on the Shoranur-Eranakulam branch have been provided with waiting sheds for III class passengers. Punkunnam, Trichur, Ollur, Pudukad, Irinjalakkuda, Chalakkudi, Alwaye and Ernakulam stations are provided with separate waiting rooms for I & II class passengers. As the platforms at all the stations have only one face and the waiting sheds and upper class waiting rooms adjoin the platforms, passengers waiting to catch trains or alighting from trains take shelter, when necessary, in the waiting sheds and upper class waiting rooms. There is, therefore, no need for a separate covered way on the platform and no such covered way has been provided at any of the stations on the Shoranur-Ernakulam Branch.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Does the Government know that before the arrival of each train, the third class passengers have to wait outside the station and that they are allowed inside only a few minutes before the arrival of each train and the gate is locked up? Similarly when trains come, the third class passengers who alight at the station have to remain on the platform till the door is opened which is generally done after the train leaves the station. So in the case of people who alight at a station and in the case of those passengers who wish to get into the train, they have to wait a few minutes on the platform exposed to the sun and rain.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* Not exposed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* There are no covered sheds for third class passengers in the stations. They have to wait only in the platforms.

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